



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

August 25, 2010

The Department of Human Services is offering emergency food assistance to Iowans struggling to recover from summer storms and flooding.

"I encourage people to take advantage of this one-time assistance," the Gov. Chet Culver said. "For people trying to recover from a disaster, this benefit is definitely worth having. The application process is simple. If you qualify, the benefits are almost immediate."

Some facts about the emergency food assistance program:

- **Who is eligible?** People who have lost income or experienced unusual expenses related to the storms or flooding – job disruptions, uninsured losses, cleanup, or replacement of ruined food – may be eligible for food assistance even if they do not qualify for the regular food assistance program.

Only residents in the 32 counties declared presidential disaster areas for individual assistance can qualify for emergency food assistance benefits. These counties are: Black Hawk, Cherokee, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Mahaska, Marion, O'Brien, Osceola, Polk, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Warren, Webster, and Wright.

- **How are benefits calculated?** The emergency program provides a one-time, non-renewable benefit, determined by household size. For example, the emergency benefit for a four-person household is \$668, while a two-person household would receive \$367. The eligibility calculation considers a household's short-term disaster-related expenses. Regular rules regarding verification, income, and resources are relaxed for the emergency program. People currently receiving food assistance may be eligible for additional help.
- **How are benefits distributed?** A plastic card – similar to a debit card – is used at participating stores for food purchases. Most emergency benefits are provided immediately upon application.
- **How do I apply?** Applications will be accepted Wednesday, August 25th through Monday, August 30th, at the following times and locations:
 - Any DHS county office that is normally open full time. Regular office hours apply. People may apply at any office so long as they live in a qualified county.
 - Any DHS part-time county offices: monitor local media for schedules.
 - At federal disaster recovery centers. The only center announced so far is in Des Moines at the Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa, 1740 Garfield Ave. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Friday, August 27th and 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 28th.

- **Tell me more about the emergency food assistance program?** The program was offered during the 2008 summer disaster in Iowa. More than 35,000 people received benefits, 80% of whom had not received food assistance before and most were not eligible for regular benefits. The emergency food assistance program, like regular food assistance, is entirely paid for with federal funds. Administrative costs are shared equally by the state and federal governments.

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For more information, contact your local Iowa Department of Human Services office. Addresses and phone numbers for these offices can be found at

http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Find_Help/MapLocations.html